

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1361

Introduced by Senator Vincent

February 21, 2006

An act to amend Section 2914 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to psychologists.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1361, as amended, Vincent. Psychologists: applicants for licensure.

Existing law prohibits a person from engaging in the practice of psychology, or representing himself or herself to be a psychologist, without a license from the Board of Psychology. Existing law requires an applicant for licensure to comply with certain requirements, including possessing an earned doctorate degree in specified fields.

This bill would include in the list of approved degrees for licensure in psychology an earned doctorate degree in ~~a field deemed by the board to be equivalent to a program~~ *an interdisciplinary or specialized area* in psychology.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2914 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 2914. Each applicant for licensure shall comply with all of
- 4 the following requirements:

1 (a) Is not subject to denial of licensure under Division 1.5
2 (commencing with Section 475).

3 (b) Possess an earned doctorate degree (1) in psychology, (2)
4 in educational psychology, (3) in education with the field of
5 specialization in counseling psychology or educational
6 psychology, or (4) ~~in a field deemed by the board to be~~
7 ~~equivalent to a program~~ *an interdisciplinary or specialized area*
8 in psychology. Except as provided in subdivision (g), this degree
9 or training shall be obtained from an accredited university,
10 college, or professional school. The board shall make the final
11 determination as to whether a degree meets the requirements of
12 this section.

13 No educational institution shall be denied recognition as an
14 accredited academic institution solely because its program is not
15 accredited by any professional organization of psychologists, and
16 nothing in this chapter or in the administration of this chapter
17 shall require the registration with the board by educational
18 institutions of their departments of psychology or their doctoral
19 programs in psychology.

20 An applicant for licensure trained in an educational institution
21 outside the United States or Canada shall demonstrate to the
22 satisfaction of the board that he or she possesses a doctorate
23 degree in psychology that is equivalent to a degree earned from a
24 regionally accredited university in the United States or Canada.
25 These applicants shall provide the board with a comprehensive
26 evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential
27 evaluation service that is a member of the National Association
28 of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), and any other
29 documentation the board deems necessary.

30 (c) Have engaged for at least two years in supervised
31 professional experience under the direction of a licensed
32 psychologist, the specific requirements of which shall be defined
33 by the board in its regulations, or under suitable alternative
34 supervision as determined by the board in regulations duly
35 adopted under this chapter, at least one year of which shall be
36 after being awarded the doctorate in psychology. If the
37 supervising licensed psychologist fails to provide verification to
38 the board of the experience required by this subdivision within
39 30 days after being so requested by the applicant, the applicant
40 may provide written verification directly to the board.

1 If the applicant sends verification directly to the board, the
2 applicant shall file with the board a declaration of proof of
3 service, under penalty of perjury, of the request for verification.
4 A copy of the completed verification forms shall be provided to
5 the supervising psychologist and the applicant shall prove to the
6 board that a copy has been sent to the supervising psychologist
7 by filing a declaration of proof of service under penalty of
8 perjury, and shall file this declaration with the board when the
9 verification forms are submitted.

10 Upon receipt by the board of the applicant's verification and
11 declarations, a rebuttable presumption affecting the burden of
12 producing evidence is created that the supervised, professional
13 experience requirements of this subdivision have been satisfied.
14 The supervising psychologist shall have 20 days from the day the
15 board receives the verification and declaration to file a rebuttal
16 with the board.

17 The authority provided by this subdivision for an applicant to
18 file written verification directly shall apply only to an applicant
19 who has acquired the experience required by this subdivision in
20 the United States.

21 The board shall establish qualifications by regulation for
22 supervising psychologists and shall review and approve
23 applicants for this position on a case-by-case basis.

24 (d) Take and pass the examination required by Section 2941
25 unless otherwise exempted by the board under this chapter.

26 (e) Show by evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she
27 has completed training in the detection and treatment of alcohol
28 and other chemical substance dependency. This requirement
29 applies only to applicants who matriculate on or after September
30 1, 1985.

31 (f) (1) Show by evidence satisfactory to the board that he or
32 she has completed coursework in spousal or partner abuse
33 assessment, detection, and intervention. This requirement applies
34 to applicants who began graduate training during the period
35 commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31,
36 2003.

37 (2) An applicant who began graduate training on or after
38 January 1, 2004, shall show by evidence satisfactory to the board
39 that he or she has completed a minimum of 15 contact hours of
40 coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection,

1 and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community
2 resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. An
3 applicant may request an exemption from this requirement if he
4 or she intends to practice in an area that does not include the
5 direct provision of mental health services.

6 (3) Coursework required under this subdivision may be
7 satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational
8 requirements for licensure or in a separate course. This
9 requirement for coursework shall be satisfied by, and the board
10 shall accept in satisfaction of the requirement, a certification
11 from the chief academic officer of the educational institution
12 from which the applicant graduated that the required coursework
13 is included within the institution's required curriculum for
14 graduation.

15 (g) An applicant holding a doctoral degree in psychology from
16 an approved institution is deemed to meet the requirements of
17 this section if all of the following are true:

18 (1) The approved institution offered a doctoral degree in
19 psychology designed to prepare students for a license to practice
20 psychology and was approved by the Bureau for Private
21 Postsecondary and Vocational Education on or before July 1,
22 1999.

23 (2) The approved institution has not, since July 1, 1999, had a
24 new location, as described in Section 94721 of the Education
25 Code.

26 (3) The approved institution is not a franchise institution, as
27 defined in Section 94729.3 of the Education Code.